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Sturtevant loosens rule on garage size

3-car structures to be allowed on smaller lots

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Sturtevant - In an effort to speed up approval of new home construction, the Village Board has unanimously approved changing an ordinance governing the maximum size of a garage on lots with less than 11,000 square feet.

Originally limited to a garage size of no more than 672 square feet, the new ordinance allows for a maximum of 900 square feet. The new ordinance also allows more flexibility in garage door placement instead of stipulating on which side of the garage the door has to be placed.

Village President Steve Jansen said the change was necessary because new residential construction often calls for a three-car garage, and developers interested in building in Sturtevant were having trouble getting Plan Commission and building inspection approval based on the old rule.

"The old ordinance worked fine when people were building more modest homes and maybe had two cars," Jansen said last week. "But today's new home buyer expects more space everywhere, including the garage."

Village Clerk Donna Deuster said a handful of new homes in the Majestic Hills subdivision had been delayed because of the previous garage-size limitation.

Jansen said the change also allows Sturtevant to remain competitive with neighboring communities such as Mount Pleasant and Caledonia, where such restrictions don't exist.

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